

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0946

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD) IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME; V: SUBJECTS LIKELY  
TO BE RAISED BY GOI

REF: A. STATE 103235

B. ROME 6530

1. AS YET WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL INDICATION AS TO SUBJECTS  
LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY THE GOI. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT  
THEIR INTERESTS ARE COMPRISED IN THE FOLLOWING.

2. ITALIAN LEADERS ARE FLATTERED BY THE VISIT ON THE FIRST  
TRIP TO EUROPE AS PRESIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WILL BE  
PARTICULARLY ALERT TO INDICATORS BEARING ON A) THE AMERICAN  
PERCEPTION OF ITS POST-VIET NAM INTERNATIONAL ROLE, INCLUDING  
ESPECIALLY B) THE STRENGTH AND VALIDITY OF AMERICAN COMMIT-  
MENTS TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE, AND C) AMERICAN APPRECIATION  
OF ITALY AND ITS POLITICAL LEADERS, ITS INTERNATIONAL ROLE,  
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO  
GOVERNMENTS.

3. IN ESSENCE, THE ITALIANS WILL WANT TO BE ASSURED THAT  
THE UNITED STATES IS NOT MOVING TOWARDS NEO-ISOLATIONISM,  
THAT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA BEHIND US THE UNITED STATES WILL  
AGAIN CONCENTRATE ON EUROPEAN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SECURITY,  
AND THAT THE UNITED STATES TRULY VALUES ITALY AS A MAJOR COL-  
LABORATOR IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

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4. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE ITALIANS WILL WANT A FULL AND FRANK ASSESSMENT OF:

THE POLITICO/SECURITY SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO PORTUGAL, THE ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUE, AND THE GREEK/TURKISH/CYPRIOT PROBLEM;

AMERICAN VIEWS ON NATO AND ITS FUTURE ROLE IN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTE NEGOTIATIONS (MBFR, SALT, AND CSCE);

THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS IN ASIA.

5. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, THE ITALIANS SEEM SURE TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF US ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING (ESTIMATED \$8 BILLION BY 1980) THEIR NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM, AND OF ASSURED ACCESS TO AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUELS. THE REQUEST WILL LIKELY BE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONSUMER SOLIDARITY WITH ITALY, THE MOST EXPOSED OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS. THE ITALIANS, AS A MAJOR PURCHASER FROM AND SUPPLIER TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MAY ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHAT POSTURE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD ASSUME IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPING-COUNTRY PRESSURES FOR A CHANGE IN THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

6. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY URGE THE PRESIDENT (OR, MORE LIKELY, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY URGE THE SECRETARY) TO FIND WAYS TO APPROVE MORE THIRD COUNTRY SALES OF MILITARY MATERIEL BY ITALY, CITING REASONS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC NEED AND PROMOTION OF A BROADER BASE FOR INTRA-ALLIED AND STANDARDIZED WEAPONS SYSTEM. THIS MAY INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF U.S. POLICY ON THIRD COUNTRY SALES BY ITALY.  
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